

# City Times

## NEWSLETTER

### HAPPY NEW YEAR, TEAM!

“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.”  
—Benjamin Franklin



*Wishing You All  
the BEST!*  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
FAREWELL GATHERINGS OF  
MAYOR FRED FITCH & CITY MANAGER  
JERRY IHLER AT LAWTON CITY HALL



**Jerry’s Retirement Party  
for City Staff**  
  
**3:30 – 5 p.m. 1/4/19  
City Hall Banquet Room  
212 SW Ninth Street**



**Mayor Fitch’s Farewell  
for City Staff &  
Community**  
  
**5-6:30 p.m. 1/7/19  
City Hall Atrium  
212 SW Ninth Street**



Junior Leadership Lawton Fort Sill recently took part in “Government Day,” exploring various City sites and divisions.

The students learned about operations at Animal Welfare, the Medicine Park Water Treatment Plant, Fire Station No. 8 and Lawton City Hall. They also spent time with LPD detectives and learned about the Crime Scene Investigation Unit!



**JANUARY 2019  
CITY MANAGERS OFFICE  
580.581.3301**

# JANUARY 8, 2019: Election Day!

A proposition to allow additional uses of the 2016 Capital Improvements Sales Tax – to incorporate critical Information Technology improvements for the City of Lawton, as well as infrastructure development and improvements aimed at attracting new industry to Lawton – will soon go to a vote of the people.

## Q: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

A: Simultaneous progression of our three topmost priorities: Alternative Water, Information Technology & Industrial Development.

## Q: HOW MUCH WOULD BE AVAILABLE?

A: Approximately \$20M of the \$132M of the 2016 CIP would be put toward IT upgrades and industrial development.

## Q: WHY NOT WAIT FOR THESE IMPROVEMENTS?

A: These are pressing needs for our community – no one knows this better than City staff. As demonstrated by the network crash of 2017, IT is vital in all of the inner-workings of the City. To provide the most efficient and effective services possible, a greater focus needs to be put on IT upgrades and improvements. Improvements in this area will lead to cost-saving measures – by way of streamlining services and transitioning to fully digital methods, and working to conveniently modernize systems and programs for our employees and our citizens. Additionally, investing in industrial development brings higher paying jobs to our community and commercial investments to help grow our city. By approving this proposition, citizens simply allow for simultaneous growth of three very important areas of advancement for our community.

CHECK MORE FAQs, VIEW THE BALLOT OR BROWSE RESEARCH ABOUT THE UPCOMING VOTE BY [CLICKING HERE.](#)



**HAPPY, HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**

## January Employee Birthdays:

Mohammad Azim	Teresa Macias	Thomas Bailey
Darious Robinson	Brittany Sawyer	Collin Ney
Avery Scott	Alberto Talavera	Shari Rodrick
Willie Whisenhunt	Vernon Young	Raanon Adams
Albert Ozuna	Bernard Nauman	Virgil Todd
Deborah Long	Bobby Cooper	Darrin Hall
David Simmons II	Rowan Dunnaway	Justin Moore
Issa Chilcote	Mark Flanagan	Nathan Igo
John Hambrick III	Wendy Goodman	Steven Hall
Ralph Maietta	Eric Weatherly	Ely Vargas
Barbara Wallace	Bobby Cooper	Cale Hoch
William Moon, Jr.	Terry Hansen	Cody Noel
Brandon Brierton	John Bordelon	Sean Hazel
Christopher Daniels	Ryan Studebaker	Travis Estep
Christopher Hally	Kimberley Lewis	Dustin Nelson
Katherine McCray	Courtney Breshears	Conor Ash
Rachel Pierce	Matthew Campbell	Howard Pierce
Jackie Cockerham III	Manuel Martinez	Scott Preston
Kevin Jordan	Richard Hollebeke	Victor Rosa
Johnny Robinson	Jessica Musselman	Tina Bendele
Rashawn Smith	Kristi Marshall	Johnny Mills
Gerardo Vallejo	Cynthia McCollister	Aaron Stobbe
Sedona Warren	Carlos Aguayo	George Farris
James Culbertson	Andrew Grubbs	Caleb Davis
Broderick Jackson	Patricia Moody	Hunter Phillips
Diane Branstetter		

**SEND PHOTOS & CONTENT FOR NEWSLETTER  
TO TVRSKA@LAWTONOK.GOV OR TEXT  
TO 580.351.4425**

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE!

### January Employment Anniversaries

#### 10 YEARS

Linda Kenyon, LPD  
Vernal Hairston, Parks & Rec  
Juan Ayala, Jr. WWM

#### 15 YEARS

Charles Whittington, LPD  
David Rolando, SWC

#### 20 YEARS+

Cliff Haggemiller, Streets  
James Maroon, Library  
Gary Ellis, LPD  
Greg Ellis, LPD  
Thierry Schroeder, WWC  
Mark Mitchell, LFD

#### 20 YEARS+ (cont'd)

Craig Caldwell, LFD  
John Bonomelli, Eq. Maint.  
David Little, Streets  
Dewayne Burk, LFD  
Charles Crawford, Jr., LPD  
William Hines, LPD  
David Schucker II, LPD  
Brian Morris, LPD  
John Chelenza, LPD  
Rusty Wright, LPD  
James Apple, LPD



*Employee*

**SPOT**

**L I G H T**

Administrative Policy 3-01, which you can view [HERE](#), was implemented in 2013 and establishes a program of recognizing City of Lawton employees who have made substantial contributions to their divisions or who have otherwise contributed or performed in a manner which will reflect favorably on the individual and the City of Lawton.

All regular full-time and all regular part-time employees, with the exception of department directors and division supervisors, are eligible for selection. To nominate a co-worker, reach out to HR Director Warren Wick (ext. 392) or EAC Chairman Travis Estep (ext. 375).

## Lawton Cultural Award Winners ANNOUNCED!

Annually, the City of Lawton and the Lawton Arts & Humanities Council asks the public to nominate individuals & organizations who make outstanding contributions to the arts & humanities in our community for the Lawton Cultural Awards. All nominees have made a significant impact upon the cultural life of our community through volunteerism, service to underserved or at-risk populations, increased funding and resources, increased public awareness, contributions to arts education, and increased public access to arts and humanities programs/activities. Read about this year's winners or learn more about the AFA Kickoff Luncheon, during which honorees will be nominated, [CLICK HERE](#).

# Thank you for your service!

After 35 years of service to the City of Lawton, City Manager Jerry Ihler will officially retire Jan. 11, 2019.

"It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served this community," Ihler said. "I have worked with some of the most dedicated people in this city. For that, I am grateful."

A letter of intent was sent to Lawton City Council in September. Ihler worked to give adequate notice in the search for his successor, and plans to assist in the transition process for the next city manager at the discretion of Council.

Ihler began his career with the City of Lawton as a Project Engineer in 1982. He worked for a short period – from 1989 to 1991 – for an engineering firm in California before returning to the City of Lawton in 1992 as the City Engineer. He was named Public Works Director, overseeing 19 divisions and 320 employees, in 1995. During that time, he played a key role in the design and construction of the Southeast Water Treatment Plant, coming on line in 2008.

In April 2015, Ihler became Assistant City Manager of Operations. He was appointed City Manager by Lawton City Council on June 23, 2015.

During Ihler's tenure, the City received the National League of City's Silver Status Award for the success of the In-house Innovative Sewer Rehabilitation Program, which was established and managed by Ihler.

Under his City Management, the City of Lawton was named as an Oklahoma Excellence Certified Healthy Community and also achieved its first "Class 1" ISO Rating. Ihler also established the City's first public information position, placing City communications and transparency on the forefront of priorities, in 2017.

**City Manager Jerry Ihler, 35 years**

